

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 11 are pending in the application. Independent claims 1, 6 and 11 are amended by the present amendment. Support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, at least at page 42, lines 9-13, and therefore no new matter is added.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okino (U.S. Patent No. 5,754,705); Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Okino in view of Itoh (U.S. Pat. No. 5,305,310).

Initially, applicant and applicant's representative wish to thank Examiner Poon for the interview granted applicant's representative on November 27, 2006. During that interview the outstanding rejections were discussed in detail. Further, during that interview claim amendments were discussed to address the outstanding rejection and to clarify the claims. The present response sets forth the discussed claim amendments. Accordingly the Examiner indicated that he would further consider such claim amendments and differences when formally presented in a filed response.

It is requested that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn, and the claims allowed, for the following reasons.

The present invention is directed to an image processor. Specifically, independent claim 1 recites a switch configured to divide image data into  $m \times n$  pixels, having  $n$  lines with  $m$  pixels per one line and to transfer each one of the  $n$  lines of image data to a predetermined destination. A control unit is configured to control the switch to directly transfer  $(n-1)$  lines of the  $n$  lines of the image data to  $(n-1)$  number of memories, and a remaining one line of the  $n$  lines of the image data directly to a compression unit. In addition, the transfer from the

storage unit of the (n-1) lines of the image data stored in the (n-1) number of memories to the compression unit is performed simultaneously with the direct transfer of the remaining one line of the n lines of the image data to the compression unit.

It is submitted that Okino does not disclose or render obvious that a transfer from the storage unit of the (n-1) lines of the image data stored in the (n-1) number of memories to the compression unit is performed simultaneously with the direct transfer of the remaining one line of the n lines of the image data to the compression unit, as is recited in the independent claims.

Claim 1 recites, in part,

a storage unit including (n-1) number of memories each configured to store one line of the n lines of the image data;

a control unit configured to control the transfer of the each one of the n lines of the image data to the predetermined destination;

a compression unit configured to batch compress the image data of m x n pixels,

wherein said control unit is further configured to control said switch to directly transfer (n-1) lines of the n lines of the image data to the (n-1) number of memories, and a remaining one line of the n lines of the image data directly to said compression unit; and to control the storage unit to transfer the (n-1) lines of the image data stored in the (n-1) number of memories to said compression unit, and

wherein said transfer from the storage unit of the (n-1) lines of the image data stored in the (n-1) number of memories to said compression unit is performed simultaneously with the direct transfer of said remaining one line of the n lines of the image data to said compression unit.

Claims 6 and 11 recite similar features.

Okino describes an image sensor having a light receiving section. Further, the background discussion of Okino states that “data of the first through seventh column is first stored in the buffer memory before being supplied to the compression processor, whereas the data of the eighth column is directly supplied to the compression processor, without being stored in the buffer memory.” However, as discussed in the interview, Okino does not teach

or suggest that the transfer from the storage unit of the (n-1) lines of the image data stored in the (n-1) number of memories to said compression unit is performed simultaneously with the direct transfer of said remaining one line of the n lines of the image data to said compression unit.

In other words, Okino makes no mention anywhere in the disclosure or figures of the feature of transferring n-1 lines of data from a number of memories to a compression unit at the same time as directly transferring the remaining line of data to the compression processor.

Further the outstanding Action cites Itoh as curing the deficiencies of Okino with respect to the claimed invention.

Itoh describes a packet forwarding system in which data is stored in a buffer using a switch. However, Itoh does not teach or suggest that the transferring from the storage unit of the (n-1) lines of the image data stored in the (n-1) number of memories to said compression unit is performed simultaneously with the direct transfer of said remaining one line of the n lines of the image data to said compression unit, as is recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Itoh does not cure that above noted deficiencies of Okino. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Itoh and Okino considered individually or in any proper combination.

For these reasons, it is requested that the rejection of independent claim 1 be withdrawn. The allowance of independent claim 1 is therefore requested.

Independent claims 6 and 11 are allowable for reasons similar to those discussed with respect to independent claim 1. Thus, the allowance of independent claims 6 and 11 is requested.

Claims 2 and 7 are allowable for the same reasons as independent claims 1 and 6 from which they depend, as well as for their own features, particularly in combination with the

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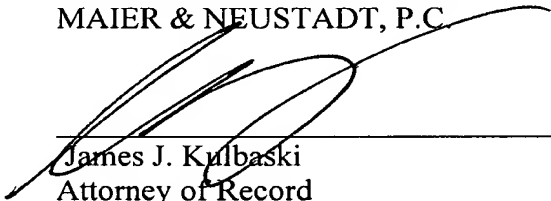
features recited in the independent claims. The allowance of dependent claims 2 and 7 is therefore requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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James J. Kulbaski  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 34,648

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

Andrew T. Harry  
Registration No. 56,959

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